

changes are shown explicitly in the attached "Version with Markings to Show Changes Made."

D1 1. (Amended) An isolated nucleic acid molecule encoding a splice variant of human telomerase of SEQ ID NO:2.

D2 27. (Amended) A nucleic acid probe that is capable of specifically hybridizing to a nucleic acid molecule encoding a splice variant of human telomerase under the following stringency conditions: 1 M Na⁺ at 65°C; 5X SSPE, 0.5% SDS, 5X Denhardt's solution at 65°C.

D3 32. (Amended) A pair of oligonucleotide primers capable of specifically amplifying all or a portion of a nucleic acid molecule encoding a splice variant of human telomerase.

D4 34. (Amended) The primers of claim 32, wherein the nucleic acid molecule comprises any of the sequences presented in Figure 11 (SEQ ID Nos: 34, 36, 38, 41, 43, 45, 47, 49, 55, 59, 63, 67, 71, 75, 79, and 83) or the complements thereof.

D5 61. (Amended) An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising [the] a sequence selected from the group consisting of region 1 (SEQ ID No:23), region α (SEQ ID No:25), region β (SEQ ID No:27), region 2 (SEQ ID No:29) and region 3 (SEQ ID No:30) as presented in Figure 10 and variants thereof, wherein said variant has at least 75% nucleotide identity with the nucleic acid sequences presented in Figure 11.

D6 65. (Amended) An isolated nucleic acid molecule encoding a splice variant of a reference human telomerase, wherein the reference human telomerase gene is SEQ ID No.1.

D7 71. (Amended) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 65, wherein the nucleic acid molecule comprises one of the sequences presented in Figure 11 (SEQ ID Nos: 34, 36, 38, 41, 43, 45, 47, 49, 51, 55, 63, 67, 71, 75, 79, 83), a complement thereof, or a

D7 sequence that hybridizes to one of the nucleic acid sequences present in Figure 11 or a complement thereof, under the following stringency conditions: 1 M Na⁺; 5X SSPE, 0.5% SDS, 5X Denhardt's solution at 65°C.

D8 80. (Amended) An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising any of the sequences presented in Figure 10 (SEQ ID Nos: 18, 23, 25, 27, 29, 30, 32, 33), or a complement thereof, or a variant of the sequences or complements thereof, wherein said variant has at least 75% nucleotide identity with the nucleic acid sequences presented in Figure 11.

81. (Amended) An isolated nucleic acid molecule encoding any of the amino acid sequences in SEQ ID Nos. 24, 26, 28, and 31 or a variant thereof, wherein said variant has at least 75% amino acid identity with said amino acid sequences presented in Figure 11.

D9 101. (Amended) An isolated nucleic acid molecule, wherein said nucleic acid molecule is a splice variant of human telomerase of SEQ ID NO:1, and further wherein said nucleic acid molecule encodes a human telomerase that lacks RTase motif A.

In the Drawings:

Under 37 C.F.R. 1.121, attached is a red-lined copy of Figs. 11A-C, G-K, M, R-T and V showing proposed changes to these Figures. Upon approval by the Examiner of such changes, Applicants will submit new drawings in compliance with 37 C.F.R. 1.84.

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this Application is respectfully requested. Claims 1, 4-15, 27-40, 61, 65-93 and 100-107 are pending. Claims 2 and 66 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 1, 27, 32, 34, 61, 65, 71, 80, 81 and 101 are amended to further clarify the present invention. The claim amendments have support in the specification on page 9 and in the figures and Sequence Listing.